

as they mourn the loss of a husband, father, brother, friend, fellow officer and a North Carolina hero. May they know God's comfort during this difficult time.

□ 1730

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MCHENRY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HONORING THE HUMANITARIAN SERVICE OF ANN GLOAG

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, a leading Scottish businesswoman and board member of the global charity Mercy Ships, Ann Gloag is being honored by the National Council of Women of the United States this evening at the United Nations as the inaugural recipient of the Susan B. Anthony Humanitarian Award in recognition of her humanitarian service in Africa.

The reason someone from east Texas would take note of this philanthropic humanitarian from Scotland is because she has done so much for Mercy Ships. It may surprise some that such an oceangoing charitable enterprise would have an international headquarters in my east Texas district, but it does, due to its founders.

Mercy Ships uses hospital ships to deliver free, world class health services to those without access in the developing world. Founded in 1978 by Don and Deyon Stephens, Mercy Ships has worked in more than 70 countries, providing life-saving and life-enhancing services to more than 2.16 million direct beneficiaries.

More than 1,200 crew work worldwide, representing more than 40 nations. They're joined each year by 2,000 short-term volunteers. Professionals, including surgeons, dentists, nurses, health care trainers, teachers, cooks, seamen, engineers, and agriculturists donate their time and skill to that effort. I've seen the results of the enormous charitable work this institution does, and it is gloriously moving.

As for the devoted Ms. Gloag, she has supported various charitable organizations, providing much needed medical care, housing, and education in Africa for over 30 years. In addition to establishing the Balcraig Foundation, the Gloag Foundation, and the Freedom from Fistula Foundation, Ms. Gloag has worked with Mercy Ships, includ-

ing the funding of the Africa Mercy Ship, the world's largest nongovernmental hospital ship providing free medical and humanitarian aid to the people of Africa.

Through partnerships in Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Kenya, the Freedom from Fistula Foundation alone is providing free surgeries to more than 1,500 women this year. In her home of Scotland, Ms. Gloag has already been honored for her work with Mercy Ships and has worked with the Scottish Government to promote its international development work in Malawi, where Ms. Gloag has also helped to establish a hospital.

Named for the American civil rights activist who helped form the National Council of Women of the United States, the Susan B. Anthony Humanitarian Award will be conferred annually on individuals dedicated to making a difference in people's lives, communities, or state of the world.

Don Stephens, founder and president of Mercy Ships, comments, "Mercy Ships champions the selection of Scotland's Ann Gloag as the inaugural recipient of the Susan B. Anthony Humanitarian Award by the National Council of Women of the United States. Ann exemplifies a modern example of Andrew Carnegie, J.P. Morgan, and John D. Rockefeller, who almost delighted to use their wealth to assist the world's poorest. On board our new hospital ship Africa Mercy, I have personally observed Ann demonstrating her compassion for others at the bedsides of women and children who received a free surgery on the ship that she helped fund. In parts of Africa, health care infrastructure and delivery is non-existent. Ann enabled Mercy Ships to bring hope and healing where it is otherwise often not available. Ann has found a powerful way to share her blessings."

We must congratulate Ms. Gloag for caring so deeply and acting so generously, responsibly, and personally to make such a difference in the world. May God bless Ann Gloag as she has so richly blessed others around the world.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FRANKS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. FRANKS of Arizona addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DEAL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEAL of Georgia addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. POSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. POSEY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Mrs. BACHMANN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. BACHMANN addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT JOSHUA M. HARDT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to U.S. Army Sergeant Joshua M. Hardt of Applegate, California. He's one of the fallen heroes of the Battle of Kamdesh, that remote outpost that was besieged and surrounded and hopelessly outnumbered by more than 300 Taliban insurgents on October 3.

No soldiers in the history of our Nation have fought more valiantly or bravely than the defenders of Combat Outpost Keating on that day. In the end, they held their ground, they defended their flag and the honor of their country. But most importantly, they defended something that is fundamental and sacred and eternal, that defines humanity itself. They defended something that can never be abandoned as long as humanity exists. They defended right against wrong, good against evil, freedom against tyranny in its most stark and defining form.

During the terrible winter of 1776, Thomas Paine, having watched many brave young men like Josh Hardt fall in defense of these same eternal truths, offered these words to try to make some sense of it. He said, "Heaven knows how to put a proper price upon its goods; and it would be strange indeed if so celestial an article as freedom should not be highly rated."

Joshua Hardt knew that, and his family knew that. Through her tears, his mother told a local newspaper, "He was a very giving son. He went into the Army wanting to make a difference . . . wanting us to be safe . . . He expressed his desire to do more, to take more action, and to make a difference. He didn't know a better way than to go into the military and to fight for everybody."

And that's exactly what he did. He fought for his Nation, he fought for his Nation's values, and he fought for the freedom of a people half a world away. And he paid for heaven's most expensive celestial article with his life, not for himself but for others.

I attended a Gold Star dinner recently, and I admitted to one the hosts that I still don't know what to say to the families. She said, well, just ask them about their sons.

So let me tell you a little bit about Josh Hardt. He was 24 years old. He's

remembered at Placer High School as an extraordinary athlete. He did his school so proud on the football field that they retired his helmet when he graduated. He was one of those big, hulking kids who stand up for whoever's being picked on.

I spoke with his wife and with his mother today and they both told me exactly the same thing: that he was first and foremost a family man, willing to do anything for his family and for his friends and for his country.

He joined the Army just 3 years ago. He'd already risen to the rank of sergeant and carried a chest of ribbons, including the Bronze Star. Perhaps the most eloquent testimonies to his service are the remembrances from younger soldiers that he'd taken under his wing to help. In fact, that was his next assignment, to come back to the States and help his returning comrades.

His football coach, Mark Sabins, remembered seeing him back home last year after the first tour of duty in Iraq and tells how excited he was to be marrying a remarkable young lady, Olivia, and how energized he was about his work in the Army and his plans for a family and how he looked forward to a full and promising life ahead.

Instead, Joshua Hardt will return home tomorrow for the last time. His family and friends will come to mourn him and to honor him and to remember him. His community will hold him up as an example of all that is heroic and virtuous. His Nation will record his name onto its most hallowed rolls that he never be forgotten.

Centuries from now, flags will be placed on his grave every year as future generations gather to consider the cost of their freedom. And perhaps in Kamdesh, Afghanistan, they will gather around a monument where Outpost Keating once stood and give thanks for the men who paid everything to purchase for them so celestial an article as freedom.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. WOLF addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

SUPPORTING 287(g)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support and the support of Arkansas' Third District residents for the 287(g) program.

Two years ago, Benton and Washington County Sheriff's Departments and the cities of Rogers and Springdale sent 19 northwest Arkansas officers and deputies for training in the identification and possible detainment of illegal immigrant offenders they encoun-

ter during their regular daily law enforcement activities. I thank Rogers' Mayor Steve Womack in being a driving force behind this task force. His leadership has been instrumental in cracking down on illegal immigrants in northwest Arkansas.

Thanks to these law enforcement personnel, more than 1,500 illegal aliens have been arrested and have or are in the process of being deported in northwest Arkansas. 287(g) has a proven track record of success nationwide. According to Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency, since January of 2007, the program is credited with identifying more than 100,000 potentially removable aliens, mostly at local jails. The numbers tell the story. 287(g) is an effective program, and that is why I'm a champion for it.

This week, I signed a letter to President Obama showing my support for the 287(g) program and asking that the funding be continued. I believe that Federal, State, and local cooperation is key to combating illegal immigration, and continuing the 287(g) program is a commonsense solution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MORAN of Kansas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. WESTMORELAND addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. WAMP) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. WAMP addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, my name is KEITH ELLISON, and I'm a Congressman from the great State of Minnesota, and I'm honored to claim this Special Order, this 1 hour, for the Progressive Caucus to talk about the values of Progressive ideals, the values associated with a progressive America in which people are included and which we believe in generosity, where we believe in valuing people, where we believe in civil rights, care for the Earth and creation, where we care about liv-

ing in a world in which middle class people, working people, the hard-working people of America and the world can have a prosperous life and where people can do well.

The Progressive Caucus, designed and approved and coming together to signal to the American people that in Congress there is a body of Members of the Congress who are willing to stand up for the values that have made America great, values such as workers' rights, such as the weekend, such as the 5-day week, such as work and safety laws, such as worker's compensation, such as Social Security.

□ 1745

These are all progressive steps forward, such as civil rights, women's rights, gay rights, such as the respect for all religious groups and religious tolerance in our country.

Recently, Mr. Speaker, our focus has been on health care because health care is such an essential component of what it means to be a middle class American trying to put food on the table for your family. Health care, if we can correct health care, the disparities in health care, the cost increases in health care, if we can correct health care 60 years in the making, we can improve the quality of life for all Americans and thereby enact a piece of legislation that is on the order of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, the 1965 Voting Rights Act, the passage of the Medicare bill, which helped millions of seniors all around our country live a life of quality, and ended seniors who lived a life of poverty and of insecurity.

This bill, which is right within our grasp at this time, we are so happy to be able to step forward. And I just want to let you know, Mr. Speaker, that it's an honor to be joined by such a courageous Congressperson as Congresswoman DIANE WATSON from the great State of California, who for years and years has been sticking up for progressive values, never backing down, always there for the American middle class and working class people.

So we are going to talk a little health care tonight. I am going to yield to the gentlelady to make a few introductory remarks, and then maybe she and I can have a little colloquy as we move on in the evening.

I yield to the gentlelady from California, DIANE WATSON.

Ms. WATSON. I thank you very much, Congressman ELLISON, for yielding to me. You are doing a marvelous job. I watch you every evening as you take the mic on the floor of the House to explain to the general public what a benefit health care reform is to all Americans.

And I want to say that we speak to all Americans and we say to them, we are presenting to you a reform of health care as you have known it in the past. Because in my own State of California, if you have insurance, your fees are going to go up somewhere around \$1,800 for a family of four annually. People are going without coverage because they cannot afford it.